Massacre of Children in Srebrenica in 1993.

April 12, 2026.

“There was so much blood on the playground that you could swim in it; parts of bodies were collected from the fence for days – no horror compares to that massacre.

I saw a boy my age — he was literally cut in half. From the lower part of his torso, his spine was visible. I still see that today. I've never seen anything so white in my life, it seems to me. Around were mixed arms, legs, body parts, headless bodies, spilled brains. Blood everywhere, bodies. Groans. In the stands, people were sitting, but they were actually dead, cut down by shrapnel and left that way. That is the image that stayed etched in my memory…

Today in Srebrenica, at the sports grounds in front of the elementary and high school, the 33rd anniversary of a horrific crime against Bosniak civilians was marked. On this day in 1993, in Srebrenica, several shells fired from positions of the Army of Republika Srpska instantly killed 74 Bosniaks, and more than 100 were wounded.

The massacre occurred a few days before the UN declared Srebrenica a "safe area," and to this day no one has been held accountable for the crime. The war drama in Srebrenica had already been ongoing by early 1993. The offensive of the Army of Republika Srpska in Podrinje forced columns of displaced Bosniaks into Srebrenica, the only place in the region under the control of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The town was overcrowded due to the influx of refugees, so compared to the pre-war population of 7,000 residents, more than 30,000 people lived in the town at that time, with as many in the surrounding villages. The deadly encirclement around Srebrenica was tightening, especially after Serb forces captured Cerska and Konjević-Polje. Hamlets and villages disappeared in flames, and about 20,000 refugees from that area ended up on the streets of Srebrenica.

The survivors were treated by Dr. Nedret Mujkanović, who described how people were sitting in front of the school, which was full of refugees, while children played football and other games. In less than a minute, seven rockets from a multiple rocket launcher struck an area roughly the size of half a football field. He said the Serbs knew that the school housed a refugee camp from Cerska and Konjević-Polje.

“I saw a dead mother lying on the ground holding the hands of her dead children,” Mujkanović stated, among other things. Testifying before the Hague Tribunal, he also said that even the evacuation of the wounded was under Serbian shelling.

Dr. Avdo Hasanović worked as a physician in the hospital. “The conditions we worked in were impossible, wartime. There was nothing. We managed as best we could. Many people died from what, from today’s perspective, were trivial things. There were no instruments or blood for transfusions, no medications or medical supplies. There was no anesthesia. Surgeries were performed ‘live,’ without anesthesia. There were no surgical materials or instruments. We amputated legs and arms with an ordinary saw disinfected with brandy, if we even had that. I remember that day well. First the detonations were heard, and shortly after, since the hospital is near the school, they began bringing in the wounded — mutilated people, children, women. My colleagues and I made superhuman efforts, but many could not be saved. When I later passed by the playground, it seemed to me there was so much blood you could swim in it. Body parts were collected from the fence around the playground for days. It was a true massacre — no horror compares to it,” said the doctor, a pediatric specialist, in an earlier interview.

Mirza Ibrahimović was 12 years old. He does not like to remember that day. He says some images are so deeply etched into his memory that whenever he

thinks of them, they come back to life. “It was a beautiful spring day. The sun was warm. The elementary school building housed refugees from several municipalities around Srebrenica. There were many children who spent most of their time there, on the school playground. That day, I think there was a small football tournament organized, so there were more people than usual. I was sitting on the upper side, behind the goal, next to a man from Glogova who had no leg. He had stepped on a mine and lost his leg, which had been cut off ‘live,’ without anesthesia, in the Srebrenica wartime hospital. He was still in severe pain, he told me — I remember that. Suddenly, out of nowhere, it exploded. The blast threw us, but we were not injured. Even today I don’t understand how not a single piece of shrapnel hit us,” Mirza recounts.

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memory… The man I was sitting with shouted to me: ‘Run.’ Since I lived in a nearby small building for teachers, which was later destroyed, I knew the area well and quickly found myself in the basement of the old gymnasium, now rebuilt into a faculty building, just a few meters from the playground. The basement was full of people. There were many wounded; some died there. I can still hear their cries. I stayed in the basement for some time until it calmed down, then I ran home,” says Mirza.

This massacre is regarded as an example of children as victims of war and ethnic cleansing carried out in Bosnia. The crime is included in the indictment against Radovan Karadžić and Ratko Mladić, which the Hague Tribunal issued on July 24, 1995.

At the beginning of April 1993, news spread among the population of Srebrenica that a ceasefire had been reached and that UN troops would soon arrive. People were more relaxed and moved more freely through the streets. During those days, children gathered at the school playground, where football tournaments were organized and music was played.

Thus, on that fatal day, April 12, 1993, while several hundred spectators sat in the stands, three large-caliber shells fell directly onto the playground. In an instant, more than 70 people were killed, and more than a hundred were wounded.”

Source: https://bosna.hr/na-igralistu-je-bilo-toliko-krvi-da-se-moglo-plivati-dijelovi-tijela-su-danima-prikupljani-sa-ograde-tom-masakru-ni-jedan-horor-nije-ravan/